

Sale of Kidneys in Indian Hospitals

1565. SHRI B.P. APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals who came to India for treatment during the last two years;

(b) the number of such nationals, out of them, who underwent kidney transplantation;

(c) the number of cases reported regarding selling of kidneys in Indian hospitals; and

(d) whether Government are going to take any stringent measures to keep a check on the incidents of selling of kidneys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Transplantation of Human Organs Act was enacted on 8th July, 1994 to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purpose and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The said Act has since been adopted by all the States except Bihar and newly created States, namely, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Use of Calcium Carbide for Ripening Fruits

1566. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ripe for Reproach: The mango's tango with chemicals", appearing in the Times of India, dated 23rd May, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the use of Calcium Carbide, which is a chemical, is banned to speed up the ripening process under Rule 44A of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are no standards for testing adulteration since mango, papaya and other fruits are perishable commodities; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken against offenders?

[6 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rule 44 AA of PFA Rules 1955 prohibits the sale of fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas commonly known as Carbide Gas.

(c) Since, no gas is available on the surface of the fruit it is not possible to carry out the test on the fruit. However, methodology for detection of Carbide gas in treated fruits at godown level has been circulated to State Governments. The State Governments have also been requested to collect circumstantial evidence of presence of Calcium Carbide kept together with the fruits in godowns for providing proofs before the Courts.

(d) All the Food (Health) authorities of States/UT Government have been asked from time to time to keep a vigil on use of Calcium Carbide in ripening of fruits and take legal action for violation of the provisions.

Transfusion of untested blood to Children

1567. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that doctors are transfusing blood to children who are suffering from weakness or mild anaemia;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the blood is untested and is likely to transmit the AIDS virus in the kids;

(c) whether in one study on 27 HIV positive children, 12 were found to have been infected from this treatment; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) A study was conducted in AIIMS on 27 children with HIV infection who reported to them over a 4 year period. Among other findings, it was found that in 12 of 27 children contaminated blood transfusion seems to have been the source of infection. The Government has taken a number of steps to contain infections being transmitted through transfusion, such as, (i) Testing of each unit of blood and its products for freedom from HIV 1 and 2 antibodies, Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis C antibody, Malaria and